



**DETROIT METRO • WILLOW RUN**

WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

L.C. Smith Building • Mezzanine  
Detroit, Michigan 48242

[www.metroairport.com](http://www.metroairport.com)

June 6, 2013

The Honorable Jack Brandenburg  
Michigan Senate  
605 Farnum Building  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Senator Brandenburg:

On behalf of the Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA), which operates Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) and Willow Run Airport, we commend you for taking the lead on aviation funding in our state. We want to take the opportunity to express the full support of the WCAA for SB 415 and SB 416, which would amend the Use Tax Act and the General Sales Tax Act regarding taxation in Michigan on the sale of aviation fuel.

Welcoming more than 30 million passengers each year, DTW is one of the busiest airports in the United States and among the world's largest air transportation hubs. DTW also has some of the newest, most operationally-capable and efficient airport facilities in North America, with two modern passenger terminals, 145 gates, six runways, and two modern Federal Inspection Services facilities for international arrivals. As well, Willow Run Airport has over 65,000 aircraft operations per year. Approximately 200 million pounds of cargo are transferred through that airport annually, making Willow Run the fourth largest airport in the State of Michigan.

Senate Bills 415 and 416, will, if enacted, improve the competitiveness for our airports by reducing the gap with respect to the tax burden on jet fuel between us and our major airport hub competitors located in other states throughout the country. By reducing the sales tax on jet fuel in Michigan, the State will improve the operating competitiveness of our airports facilities and, as a result, ultimately benefit the customers we serve.

We pride ourselves at the WCAA on working every day to make our airports more competitive versus our peer airports around the globe. We recently have cut \$22 million out of our operating budget, restructured our debt obligations, and have taken numerous other actions to keep us at our highest level of service while remaining most competitive. SB 415 and 416 would provide some much needed and appreciated assistance from the State in helping us achieve our goals in providing air service within the world market.

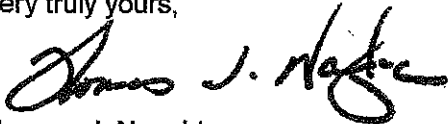
The proposed legislation will allow for the airports in Michigan to benefit from the continued development and maintenance of the Michigan air transportation system. Your efforts to improve Michigan's overall transportation system by providing a stable

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funding source for aviation infrastructure, ensuring safe and efficient air travel, are critical to the everyday lives of Michigan residents and visitors alike.

We thank you again for all of your efforts. The Wayne County Airport Authority is available to assist in any way you may need to ensure that your legislation is enacted.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Naughton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" being more prominent.

Thomas J. Naughton  
Chief Executive Officer